

# Transportation In The News



**Investigating and reporting the facts**

William E. Amburn, OKAGE Teacher Consultant  
bill.amburn@sbcglobal.net

# Transportation Perspectives

## Grade Level

**Grade 8 US History**

**High School US  
History**

**High School  
Oklahoma History**

## Purpose

**Students see transportation all around them but do not know geographic and historic background about the development of types of transportation. Students will gain perspectives about transportation as they explore American ingenuity that overcame geography and economic issues in history.**

# Geographic and Historic Questions

**How did people modify their environment to provide effective transportation?**

**What types of transportation were available or were developed?**

**Why and when did these events take place?**

# National Geography Standards

**Standard 1**      How to use maps and other geographic representations, geospatial technologies, and spatial thinking to understand and communicate information

**Standard 14**      How human actions modify the physical environment

# Oklahoma Academic Standards

## Grade 8 US History

- Standard 4:  
The student will examine the political, economic, social, and geographic transformation of the United States during the early to mid-1800s.

## High School US History

- Standard 1:  
The student will analyze the transformation of the United States through its civil rights struggles, immigrant experiences, settlement of the American West, and the industrialization of American society in the Post-Reconstruction through the Progressive Eras, 1865 to 1900.

# Oklahoma History

- The student will describe the state's geography and the historic foundations laid by Native American, European, and American cultures.
- **This lesson spans the Oklahoma History content standards**

**Content Standard 1**

- Reading Skills

- The student will develop and demonstrate social studies Common Core reading literacy skills.

## **Common Core**

### **Process and Literacy Standard 1**

- Writing Skills

- The student will develop and demonstrate Common Core social studies writing literacy skills.

## **Common Core**

### **Process and Literacy Standard 2**

# Geographic Themes

**Place**

**Human/Environment Interaction**

**Movement**

## Objectives – What do we want to accomplish?

- Students will learn about transportation history in the United States including Oklahoma
- Students will learn about the impact of geography that prompted US inventiveness to develop new means of transportation.

# Materials Needed

Textbook

Internet connection

Markers

Flash Drive

Large sheets of paper

Computers or

Computer Lab

# Time: How long is this lesson?

3 - 4 days in class

The amount of time needed will be determined by the size of your class and number of news reports.

Students will do some of the work as homework such as some of the research and preparation time for their presentations.

## Topics

**Transcontinental Railroad**

**Steamboats**

**Model T**

**Red River Bridge**

**Turnpikes**

**Route 66**

**Cattle Trails/Drives**

**Pony Express**

**Interstate**

**Bicycles**

**Wagon Road Act**

## **You Assignment**

**You will be put into teams of 3**

**Each team will be given an assignment on transportation**

**Each team will research and develop information and material, including pictures and maps, to be used in a news report.**

# The News Report

**Give a news report on a transportation event or issue. Research and present your information in a creative way.**

# The News Program

**News Anchor**

**Investigative reporter**

**Commercial**

**Travelogue**

**You may include a jingle or song**

# Included in the Assignment

**Geographic and historic terms**

**Pictures**

**Maps**

**Statistics**

# Reporting the News

**Have each group report the news in the style they have chosen.**

**Each student at the desk will have a handout to write the information reported.**

# Time Limit

You must give the students a time limit for reporting.

Some students will take too long if you do not limit them. Others will want to know the length of time to ease any nervousness.

I suggest a 3 minute time limit.

# Assessment – They need a grade!

Option 1 The News Report and essay are used for the grade by using a rubric for grading.

Option 2 Multiple Choice or Matching Test – Students write the questions.

Option 3 Students make a collage of transportation. This is for academically challenged.

# Extensions and Simplifications

Have students use the Internet to create a timeline and a map of inventions.

Provide your own news report for students to read.

OR

Provide the basic information without students needing to do the research and let them create a news report.

Have students do a cartoon or collage about transportation.